GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

French Literature: Topics in Historical Literature (A005777)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 2) French Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Roose, Alexander LW07 lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - French)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - English)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - German)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Greek)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Italian)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Latin)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Spanish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Swedish)	5	A
Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature	5	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - French)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - English)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - German)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Italian)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Spanish)	5	A

Teaching languages

French

Keywords

French literature, 17th and 18th century, love and seduction, classical tragedy, *galanterie et libertinage*, censorship.

Position of the course

This advanced course follows up on *French Literature C16-118* and provides students with an in-depth study of French literature and culture from the 17th (theatre) and 18th century (novel, *conte*).
Exchange students may take up this course unit, for which no prior knowledge of Dutch is required.

Contents

The literature from the French Classicist and Enlightenment era is discussed from the perspective of one central theme: love and seduction, *in* literature and *by* literature. The tragic passions in the Classical theatre by Racine, the pyschological novel by Madame de Lafayette, the irresistible but fatal love in the sentimental novel by Prévost, the erotic pleasures in the novella by Vivant Denon, and in the

analytical novel by Constant (Adolphe) are each studied against the backdrop of the changing conceptions and discourse on love and sexuality and on their representation in different literary genres. Attention will be devoted to the reception of the discussed works in the 17th and 18th centuries, when their success was often scandalous.

Initial competences

The student may take this course if he/she has followed the courses *French literature C16-C18* & *French litterature C19-C20* or has mastered the intended competences in another way.

Final competences

1 To have an insight into the literary-historical developments of French literature.
2 To have an insight into the evolution of the mentalities and the cultural background in France.
3 To be capable of writing a good essay, coherent, well structured, clearly argued and focused on the set question.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

The four or five set texts are presented and questioned in chronological order during lectures. Students then engage with notes and the reading suggestions (Alain Badioui, Allan Bloom, Bell Hooks, etc.), and write an essay on several (imposed) texts.
No lecture recordings are available for this course.

Study material

None

References

Course content-related study coaching

• Specific questions can be asked during the lecturer's office hours.
• Feedback

Assessment moments

continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Essay (one longer well informed essay, two shorter essays - all on different (set) texts.
The student hands in an essay during the May-June session. In case of an insufficient mark, the student submits a new essay during the August-September session.

Calculation of the examination mark

Non-periodical (100%)

Facilities for Working Students

• Possibility of exemption from attending the lectures and substitute assignment
• the exam can be organised at a different time during the same academic year

- feedback by appointment